



PERSONNEL AND
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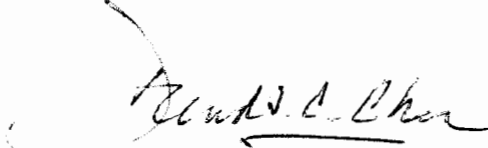
JUN 28 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (SAF/MR)
DIRECTOR, RESERVE AND TRAINING, USCG

SUBJECT: Policy Guidance for TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS)

This directive-type memorandum implements the provisions of sections 701 and 702 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109-163), January 6, 2006, which enhanced and expanded the TRS program. TRICARE Reserve Select is a premium-based three-tier TRICARE health plan for certain Selected Reserve members and their families provided under section 1076d of title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.) and section 1076b of title 10, U.S.C., as added in Public Law 109-163.

This memorandum establishes the policy, responsibilities, and procedures for the administration of TRS and procedures to qualify for the three tier TRS health plan. Selected Reserve members may submit an enrollment form with the first month's premium payment once they have qualified and completed a DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select."


David S. C. Chu

Attachments:
As stated



POLICY GUIDANCE
for
TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS)

This DoD policy implements recent enhancements to TRICARE health care coverage for certain Selected Reserve members and their eligible family members provided under section 1076d of title 10, United States Code (10 U.S.C. 1076d)¹, and a new TRICARE health care coverage for Selected Reserve members and their eligible family members provided under 10 U.S.C. 1076b², who are not eligible for other TRICARE coverage. These TRICARE benefits are collectively called TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS).

The TRICARE Dental Program is a separate benefit that is available to all members of the Selected Reserve and their eligible family members under 10 U.S.C. 1076a, and must be purchased separately.

- (1) **TRICARE Reserve Select.** TRS is a premium-based TRICARE health plan with three tiers that is available to members of the Selected Reserve. TRS offers coverage similar to TRICARE Standard (and TRICARE Extra) with active duty family member deductibles and cost shares applied to the TRS plan.
- (a) **TRS Tiers.** TRS is a three-tiered benefit with separate qualification requirements and premium rates for each tier. All TRS tiers require the member to commit to service in the Selected Reserve for the period of TRS coverage. The specific qualification requirements for TRS Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 are described in paragraphs (2), (3) and (4), below, respectively.
- (b) **Types of Coverage.** Reserve component members may purchase TRS health care coverage for member-only or member and family.
- (c) **Program Information.** The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall take action to ensure—to the maximum extent practicable—that their Reserve component members receive information about the three tiers of TRS as described in paragraphs (2), (3) and (4), below, to include:
- (i) a clear explanation of the qualification requirements for each tier of TRS,
 - (ii) the procedures for entering into an agreement to serve in the Selected Reserve as a condition of qualifying for TRS health care coverage,
 - (iii) procedures for enrolling in TRS, and
 - (iv) a description of the health care benefits provided under TRS.

¹ As amended by section 701 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (NDAA 06) (P.L. 109-163, January 6, 2006, 119 STAT. 3339)

² As added section 702 of NDAA 06 (P.L. 109-163, January 6, 2006, 119 STAT. 3340)

(2) **TRICARE Reserve Select Tier 1** (10 U.S.C. 1076d). TRS Tier 1 is a premium-based TRICARE health plan available to Reserve component members who have served in support of a contingency operation and agree to continued service in the Selected Reserve. Selected Reserve members who meet the qualification requirements in paragraph (2)(a), below, may purchase TRS Tier 1 health care coverage. TRS Tier 1 requires the member to pay 28% of the total cost of the premium.

(a) Qualifying to purchase Tier 1.

- (i) *Selected Reserve Members.* Members of the Selected Reserve qualify to purchase TRS Tier 1 coverage if they were called or ordered to active duty in support of a contingency operation as defined in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, U.S.C., and served continuously on active duty, voluntarily or involuntarily, for 90 consecutive days or more under that call or order to active duty. The Reserve component member may purchase one whole year of TRS Tier 1 coverage for each 90-day period of continuous active duty under such call or order to active duty.
- (ii) *Members with a Service Connected Injury, Illness or Disease.* Reserve component members who would have otherwise qualified to purchase TRS Tier 1 coverage as provided in paragraph (2)(a)(i), above, but served fewer than 90 consecutive days due to an injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while deployed may purchase one whole year of TRS Tier 1 coverage.
- (iii) *Individual Ready Reserve Members.* Members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) who are released on or after January 6, 2006, from a qualifying period of active duty as described in paragraph (2)(a)(i) or (2)(a)(ii), above, but are unable to find a position in the Selected Reserve before the completion of the qualifying active duty or the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) period, have one year from the date the qualifying active duty or the TAMP period ends to be assigned to and serving in a position in the Selected Reserve in order to purchase TRS Tier 1 coverage. If the member is not serving in the Selected Reserve by the end of the one-year period, he or she no longer qualifies for TRS Tier 1 coverage based on that period of qualifying service.

(b) Requirements to Purchase TRS Tier 1. The following requirements must be accomplished in order for the member to purchase TRS Tier 1 health coverage.

- (i) *Service Agreement.* The Reserve component member must execute a written service agreement (DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select" available through the Guard/Reserve portal) with his or her Reserve component to serve in the Selected Reserve for the total number of whole years of TRS Tier 1 health care coverage for which they qualify and wish to purchase. Eligibility is based on one whole year of coverage for each 90 consecutive days of qualifying service. This agreement must be entered into within the time period specified in paragraph (2)(c)(i), below.
- (ii) *Selected Reserve Service.* A Reserve component member must be serving in the Selected Reserve on the first day of TRS Tier 1 coverage and must remain in the Selected Reserve for the entire period covered under TRS Tier 1.

- (iii) *Determining Eligibility.* The member's Reserve component is responsible for validating the member's qualifications for TRS Tier 1, the period of Selected Reserve service obligation, and the maximum period the member is eligible for TRS Tier 1 coverage. The member's Reserve component shall enter TRS Tier 1 eligibility information into the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) using the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) web application for members who elect to purchase TRS Tier 1 coverage.
- (iv) *TRICARE Enrollment.*
 - (A) *Selected Reserve and Certain IRR Members.* In order to purchase coverage under TRS Tier 1, qualified Selected Reserve members, and IRR members who began serving in the Selected Reserve 60 days or more before the date their TAMP period expired, must complete and submit a TRICARE enrollment form accompanied by the first month's premium payment to the applicable TRICARE Regional Contractor no later than 30 days before their TRS Tier 1 coverage is to begin.
 - (B) *IRR Members.* In the case of an IRR member who begins serving in the Selected Reserve with fewer than 60 days before the expiration of his or her TAMP period, the member must submit the enrollment form and first month's premium payment to the TRICARE Regional Contractor not later than 30 days after the date the member began serving in the Selected Reserve.
 - (C) *Members with a Service-Connected Injury, Illness or Disease.*
 - (I) In the case of an otherwise qualified member who served more than 30 consecutive days but fewer than 90 consecutive days due to an injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while deployed, the member must submit the enrollment form and first month's premium payment to the TRICARE Regional Contractor, as specified in paragraph (2)(b)(iv)(A), no later than 30 days before their TRS Tier 1 coverage is to begin.
 - (II) In the case of an otherwise qualified member who served fewer than 31 consecutive days due to an injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while deployed, the member must submit the enrollment form and first month's premium payment to the TRICARE Regional Contractor within 30 days after the date the member enters into the agreement to serve in the Selected Reserve.
- (c) Agreement to Obligated Period of Service.
 - (i) *Service Agreement.* Reserve component members who are released from a qualifying period of active duty and wish to purchase TRS Tier 1 coverage must agree to serve continuously in the Selected Reserve for a period of one or more whole years for which the member elects to purchase TRS Tier 1 coverage. The member's Reserve component shall provide each eligible Reserve component member an opportunity to enter into such service agreement.

- (A) *Selected Reserve Members.* The Reserve member must enter into a service agreement (DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select") no later than 90 days following the date the member was released from the qualifying period of active duty.
- (B) *IRR Members.* In the case of a member of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) who is able to find a position in the Selected Reserve, the member must enter into a service agreement (DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select") no later than 30 days after the member is transferred to a position in the Selected Reserve.
- (C) *Members with a Service-Connected Injury, Illness or Disease.*
 - (I) *Selected Reserve Member.* A Selected Reserve member who served fewer than 90 consecutive days due to an injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while deployed, must enter into a service agreement (DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select") no later than 90 days following the date the member was released from active duty.
 - (II) *Individual Ready Reserve Member.* An IRR member who served fewer than 90 consecutive days due to an injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while deployed and is able to find a position in the Selected Reserve must enter into a service agreement (DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select") no later than 90 days after the member is released from active duty or no later than 30 days after the member is transferred to a position in the Selected Reserve, whichever is later.
- (ii) *Start of Obligated Service.* The obligated period of service in the Selected Reserve begins on the first day of TRS Tier 1 coverage specified in paragraph (2)(d), below.
- (iii) *Continued Selected Reserve Service.* The member must meet the qualifications for service in and continue to serve in the Selected Reserve. An executed service agreement as specified in paragraph (2)(c)(i), above, does not guarantee that the member will be retained in the Selected Reserve for the entire period covered by the service agreement since Service policies and various provisions of law may require that the member be separated from the Selected Reserve on an earlier date.
- (iv) *Failure to Execute Service Agreement.* Failure to execute the DD Form 2895 as specified in paragraph (2)(c)(i), above, shall result in a member no longer qualifying for TRS Tier 1 coverage based upon that qualifying period of active duty.
- (v) *Lesser Period of Coverage.* If coverage is taken for a period less than the maximum period of eligibility, the period of coverage cannot be extended at a later time.

- (vi) *Relationship to Other Service Agreements.* The DD Form 2895, which documents the member's agreement to serve continuously in the Selected Reserve as a condition of qualifying for TRS Tier 1 coverage, is separate from any other form of commitment to a period of obligated service and may cover any part or all of the same period that is covered by another commitment of obligated service. The period of obligated service for TRS Tier 1 will run concurrently with any other service commitment.

(d) Period of TRS Tier 1 Coverage

- (i) *Covered Period.* The period of TRS Tier 1 coverage shall be equal to the number of whole years in the executed service agreement between the Reserve component member and his or her Reserve component as described in paragraph (2)(c)(i), above.
- (ii) *Date Coverage Begins.*
 - (A) *New Enrollments.* For Selected Reserve members (except those described in paragraphs (2)(d)(iv) and (2)(d)(v), below), the period of coverage shall begin on the first day following the date their TAMP period ends, or not at all.
 - (B) *Member Purchasing a Second Period of TRS Tier 1 Coverage.* For Selected Reserve members who elected TRS Tier 1 coverage based on a subsequent period of qualifying active duty, the period of coverage shall begin on the first day following the date their TAMP period ends or the date the first period of TRS Tier 1 coverage ends, whichever is later, or not at all.
- (iii) *Eligible IRR Members.* In the case of an eligible IRR member who is accessed into a position in the Selected Reserve after the expiration of his or her TAMP period, coverage shall begin on the date the member is accessed into the Selected Reserve.
- (iv) *Member Transferred to the IRR or Inactive National Guard (ING) Before TAMP Coverage Expires.* A Selected Reserve member who is transferred from the Selected Reserve to the IRR or ING prior to release from active duty or before the end of TAMP shall be treated as an IRR member as described in paragraph (2)(a)(iii), above. Coverage shall begin on the applicable date prescribed in paragraph (2)(d)(ii) or paragraph (2)(d)(iii), above.
- (v) *Coverage for Reserve Component Members with a Service-connected Injury, Illness or Disease.*
 - (A) *Selected Reserve Member.* Coverage for a member of the Selected Reserve who served fewer than 90 consecutive days because of an injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while deployed and purchased one year of TRS Tier 1 shall begin:
 - (I) upon the member's release from active duty in the case of a member who served fewer than 31 days of qualifying active duty; or

- (II) on the day following the end of the member's TAMP coverage in the case of a member who completed greater than 30 consecutive days of qualifying active duty; except that
 - (III) if the member has not entered into a service agreement by the end of the 90th day following the member's release from active duty, the member shall no longer qualify to purchase TRS Tier 1 health coverage.
- (B) *IRR Member.* Coverage for a member of the IRR who served fewer than 90 consecutive days because of an injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while deployed and purchased one year of TRS Tier 1 shall begin the later of:
 - (I) the day following the member's release from active duty in the case of a member who served fewer than 31 days of qualifying active duty and the member was accessed into the Selected Reserve before being released from active duty, or
 - (II) the day following the end of the member's TAMP coverage in the case of a member who completed greater than 30 consecutive days of qualifying active duty and was accessed into the Selected Reserve during the TAMP period, or
 - (III) the day the member is accessed into the Selected Reserve if not covered under paragraph (2)(d)(v)(B)(I) or (II), above, provided the member was accessed into the Selected Reserve not later than one year after being released from active duty for members who served fewer than 31 days of qualifying active duty or one year after the expiration of the TAMP period for members who served greater than 30 consecutive days of qualifying active duty; except that
 - (IV) if the member fails to enter into a service agreement within the time limit prescribed in paragraph (2)(c)(i)(C), above, the member shall no longer qualify to purchase TRS Tier 1 health coverage.
- (vi) *Multiple Periods of TRS Tier 1 Coverage.* A Reserve component member who purchases TRS Tier 1 coverage based on new qualifying active duty that ended on or after January 6, 2006, shall have that period of TRS Tier 1 coverage added to any existing TRS Tier 1 coverage, such that multiple periods TRS Tier 1 coverage based on separate periods of qualifying active duty (that ended on or after January 6, 2006) shall run consecutively with any prior TRS Tier 1 coverage running concurrently. This extension of additional TRS Tier 1 coverage also applies to a member who was covered under TAMP on or after January 6, 2006, based on active duty performed in support of a contingency operation as defined in 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(13)(B).

- (vii) *Extension of Coverage.* On or after January 6, 2006, a Selected Reserve member whose TRS Tier 1 coverage is suspended under paragraph (8), below, shall have his or her period of TRS Tier 1 coverage extended by the number of days that the TRS Tier 1 coverage was suspended (including any period of early TRICARE coverage based on a delayed-effective-date order and TAMP health coverage), except in the case of a dual military couple when the non-premium based TRICARE coverage is based on the spouse's military service.
- (viii) *Death of a Covered Member.* If a member of the Selected Reserve dies on or after January 6, 2006, while covered under TRS Tier 1 member and family coverage, coverage will continue for covered family members for up to six months beyond the date of the member's death unless the eligible family member(s) (spouse and/or children) submits a request to terminate coverage. If the TRS member is in TRS member-only coverage at the time of death, eligible family member(s) (spouse and/or children) may apply to purchase TRS Tier 1 coverage for up to six months beyond the date of the member's death. The surviving spouse (or legal guardian when coverage is provided to the member's child or children and there is no surviving spouse) shall be responsible for payment of the monthly premiums while covered under survivor benefit of TRS Tier 1.

(3) TRICARE Reserve Select Tier 2 (10 U.S.C. 1076b). TRS Tier 2 is a premium-based TRICARE health plan that may be purchased by Selected Reserve members who meet the qualification requirements in paragraphs (3)(a) and (3)(b), below. TRS Tier 2 requires the member to pay 50% of the total cost of the premium.

- (a) Qualifying to purchase Tier 2 coverage. A member of the Selected Reserve qualifies to purchase TRS Tier 2 coverage if the member meets one of the following criteria and continues to meet the criteria during the period of coverage:
 - (i) *Unemployment Compensation Recipient.* The Selected Reserve member is an eligible unemployment compensation recipient under State law for any day of the month for which TRS Tier 2 coverage is provided.
 - (ii) *Employee Not Eligible for an Employer-Sponsored Health Plan.* The member's employer does not offer health insurance to any of its employees or the member is in a category of employees to which the employer does not offer a health benefits plan (if this category of employees is based on hours, duties, employment agreement, or such other characteristics). However, exclusion of the employee for participating in an employer-sponsored health plan cannot be based on the employee's membership in the Selected Reserve.
 - (iii) *Self-Employed.* The Selected Reserve member is self-employed when self-employment is the member's primary source of annual income, as reported to the Internal Revenue Service (other than service in the Selected Reserve). A self-employed reservist may operate a trade, business or profession as a sole proprietor or as a partner. The Reserve component member shall not be considered self-employed if he or she works for any other entity that provides a health care plan which is available to the reservist.

- (b) Service Agreement. To purchase TRS Tier 2 coverage, the Reserve component member must execute a DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select" with his or her Reserve component during the annual qualification certification period that obligates the member to serve in the Selected Reserve for the upcoming calendar year, or for the remainder of the current calendar year in the case of a member who qualifies to purchase TRS Tier 2 coverage outside the annual qualification certification period as a new accession into the Selected Reserve (as provided in paragraph (11), below) or based on a Qualifying Life Event (as described in paragraph (12), below).
- (c) Period of Selected Reserve Service. The member must be in the Selected Reserve at the start of TRS Tier 2 coverage and continue to serve in the Selected Reserve for the entire period of coverage. An executed service agreement as specified in paragraph (3)(b), above, does not guarantee that the member will be retained in the Selected Reserve for the entire period covered by the service agreement since Service policies and various provisions of law may require that the member be separated from the Selected Reserve on an earlier date.
- (d) Relationship to Other Service Agreements. The DD Form 2895, which documents the member's agreement to serve continuously in the Selected Reserve as a condition of qualifying for the TRS Tier 2 coverage, is separate from any other form of commitment to a period of obligated service and may cover any part or all of the same period of service that is covered by another commitment of obligated service. The period of obligated service for TRS Tier 2 shall run concurrently with any other service commitment.
- (e) Required Documentation. The member shall provide the required documentation to his or her Reserve component in order to certify he or she qualifies for the full period of TRS Tier 2 coverage. This may require supplemental documentation should the initial documentation fail to cover the full period of coverage, which typically ends on December 31st of the year of coverage.
- (i) *Eligible Unemployment Compensation Recipients.* The member shall provide a statement of benefit, verification of receipt of unemployment compensation or a letter of eligibility from the State office that administers the unemployment insurance program that identifies the member as eligible for unemployment insurance compensation and specifies the period of eligibility.

Note: The regular period of eligibility for unemployment compensation is 26 weeks, although "Extended Benefits" may be available to workers who have exhausted regular unemployment insurance benefits during periods of high unemployment. The basic Extended Benefits program provides up to 13 additional weeks of benefits when a State is experiencing high unemployment. Some States have also enacted a voluntary program to pay up to seven additional weeks (20 weeks maximum) of Extended Benefits during periods of extremely high unemployment.

- (ii) *Non-Availability of Employer-Sponsored Health Care Plan.* The member shall provide a letter from his or her employer that certifies that either (A) the employer does not offer health care insurance to any of its employees or (B) the company health insurance plan excludes certain categories of employees from participating in the company's health insurance plan and describes why this employee is not eligible to participate in the plan. The letter must be signed by a company Human Resource Department representative or another appropriate authorized company official.
- (iii) *Self-Employed*
 - (A) The member shall provide a Form 1040 and Schedule SE filed for the member's most recent federal income tax return. (The Schedule SE form must be filed when annual net earnings from self-employment are \$400 or more).
 - (B) If this is the member's first year of self-employment or the first year the member is applying to purchase TRS Tier 2 coverage, he or she must provide documentation filed with federal, state or local government officials to establish the business and the taxpayer identification number under which the business will operate. (This may be a social security number, an individual taxpayer number, or possibly an Employer Identification Number if the business or practice has employees).

(4) TRICARE Reserve Select Tier 3 (10 U.S.C. 1076b). TRS Tier 3 is a premium-based TRICARE health plan that may be purchased by members of the Selected Reserve who do not qualify for TRS Tier 1 or Tier 2 health care coverage. TRS Tier 3 requires the member to pay 85% of the total cost of the premium.

- (a) Qualifying to purchase Tier 3 coverage. TRS Tier 3 is available to all Selected Reserve members who do not qualify for TRS Tier 1 or Tier 2 health care coverage. Qualification is contingent upon the member entering into a service agreement to serve continuously in the Selected Reserve (as specified in paragraph (4)(b), below), for the period of TRS Tier 3 coverage.
- (b) Service Agreement. To purchase TRS Tier 3 coverage, the Reserve component member must execute a DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select" with his or her Reserve component during the annual qualification certification period that obligates the member to serve in the Selected Reserve for the upcoming calendar year, or for the remainder of the current calendar year in the case of a member who qualifies to purchase TRS Tier 3 coverage outside the annual qualification certification period as a new accession into the Selected Reserve (as provided in paragraph (11), below) or based on a Qualifying Life Event (as described in paragraph (12), below).

- (c) Period of Selected Reserve Service. The member must be in the Selected Reserve at the start of TRS Tier 3 coverage and continue to serve in a Selected Reserve for the entire period of coverage. An executed service agreement as specified in paragraph (4)(b), above, does not guarantee that the member will be retained in the Selected Reserve for the entire period covered by the service agreement since Service policies and various provisions of law may require that the member be separated from the Selected Reserve on an earlier date.
- (d) Relationship to Other Service Agreements. The DD Form 2895, which documents the member's agreement to serve continuously in the Selected Reserve as a condition of qualifying for the TRS Tier 3 coverage, is separate from any other form of commitment to a period of obligated service and may cover any part or all of the same period of service that is covered by another commitment of obligated service. The period of obligated service for TRS Tier 3 shall run concurrently with any other service commitment.

(5) Annual Qualification Certification for TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3

- (a) Calendar Year 2006 Qualification Certification. Initial TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3 coverage will be from October 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. This three month period provides a transition to annual calendar year coverage for TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3 beginning in calendar year 2007.
 - (i) *2006 Qualification Certification.* The certification period for calendar year 2006 will be conducted from July 1, 2006, through September 25, 2006.
 - (ii) *Communications Plan.* The Reserve components shall provide their Selected Reserve members, and other individuals as determined by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned, with information about the qualification requirements and the initial qualification/certification period in sufficient time so that members will be able to make an informed decision about purchasing TRS Tier 2 and TRS Tier 3 coverage for the fourth quarter of calendar year 2006.
 - (iii) *Qualifying for TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3.* A Reserve component member who applies to purchase TRS Tier 2 or TRS Tier 3 coverage must meet the qualification requirements specified in paragraphs (3)(a) and (3)(b), above, for TRS Tier 2 coverage, or paragraph (4)(a), above, for TRS Tier 3 coverage.
 - (iv) *TRS Tier 2 Qualification Certification Requirements*
 - (A) *Documentation.* The member must provide documentation (as described in paragraph (3)(e), above) to his or her Reserve component that substantiates the member meets the qualification requirements specified in paragraphs (3)(a) and (3)(b), above, for TRS Tier 2 coverage. This may require the member to submit supplemental documentation should the initial documentation fail to cover the full period of coverage through December 31, 2006.

- (B) *Service Agreement.* The member and an official from the member's Reserve component shall execute a DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select" that obligates the member to service in the Selected Reserve for the entire period of TRS Tier 2 coverage.
 - (C) *Period of Obligated Service.* The executed period of obligated service on the DD Form 2895 may be for the period October 1, 2006, through December 31, 2007, for this initial period of qualification/certification if the member intends to purchase TRS Tier 2 coverage for both the fourth quarter of calendar year 2006 and calendar year 2007. In the case of a member who only wants to purchase TRS Tier 2 coverage for calendar year 2006, the period of obligated service shall be from October 1, 2006, through December 31, 2006.
- (v) *TRS Tier 3 Qualification Certification Requirements*
- (A) *Service Agreement.* The service member and an official from the member's Reserve component shall execute a DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select" that obligates the member to service in the Selected Reserve for the entire period of TRS Tier 3 coverage.
 - (B) *Period of Obligated Service.* The executed period of obligated service on the DD Form 2895 may be for the period October 1, 2006, through December 31, 2007, for this initial period of qualification/ certification if the member intends to purchase TRS Tier 3 coverage for both the fourth quarter of calendar year 2006 and calendar year 2007. In the case of a member who only wants to purchase TRS Tier 3 coverage for calendar year 2006, the end date for the period of obligated service shall be from October 1, 2006, through December 31, 2006.
- (b) Calendar Year 2007 Qualification Certification. Calendar Year 2007 is the transition year to an annual calendar year of health coverage.
- (i) *2007 Qualification Certification.* The qualification certification period for 2007 will be conducted from September 1, 2006, through October 31, 2006.
 - (ii) *Communications Plan.* The Reserve components shall provide their Selected Reserve members, and other individuals as determined by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned, with information about the qualification requirements and the qualification/certification period in sufficient time so that members will be able to make an informed decision about purchasing TRS Tier 2 and TRS Tier 3 coverage for calendar year 2007.
 - (iii) *Procedures for Members With TRS Tier 2 Coverage in 2006.* A Selected Reserve member who provided the required documentation to certify that he or she qualifies for TRS Tier 2 coverage during the fourth quarter of calendar year 2006, entered into a service agreement (DD Form 2985) that extends through calendar year 2007 and enrolled in TRS Tier 2 is not required to recertify for continued coverage for calendar year 2007. The Reserve component shall code

the member as eligible in DEERS after verifying that the required documentation that substantiates eligibility through 2007 is on file and the member is covered by a service agreement for calendar year 2007. This may require the member to submit supplemental documentation should the initial documentation fail to cover the full period of coverage through December 31, 2007.

- (iv) *Procedures for Members With TRS Tier 3 Coverage in 2006.* A Selected Reserve member who entered into a service agreement (DD Form 2985) that extends through calendar year 2007 and enrolled in TRS Tier 3 is not required to enter into a new service agreement for calendar year 2007. The Reserve component shall code the member as eligible in DEERS after verifying that the member is covered by a service agreement for calendar year 2007.
- (v) *Procedures for New Enrollments in 2007.* A Selected Reserve member who did not purchase TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage for the fourth quarter of calendar year 2006 and applies to purchase such coverage for calendar year 2007 must meet the qualification requirements specified in paragraphs (3)(a) and (3)(b), above, for TRS Tier 2 coverage, or paragraph (4)(a), above, for TRS Tier 3 coverage.

(A) TRS Tier 2 Certification Requirements

- (I) *Documentation.* The member must provide documentation (as described in paragraph (3)(e), above) to his or her Reserve component that substantiates that the member meets the qualification requirements specified in paragraph (3)(a), above, for TRS Tier 2 coverage. This may require the member to submit supplemental documentation should the initial documentation fail to cover the full period of coverage through December 31, 2007.
- (II) *Service Agreement.* The member and an official from the member's Reserve component must execute a DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select."
- (III) *Period of Obligated Service.* The executed period of obligated service on the DD Form 2895 shall be from January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2007.
- (IV) *Deadline.* The above requirements must be completed by October 31, 2006, and the member must submit the TRICARE enrollment form and first month's premium payment to purchase coverage during the open season. The TRICARE enrollment form and first month's premium payment must be postmarked no later than November 25, 2006.

(B) TRS Tier 3 Certification/Recertification Requirements

- (I) *Service Agreement.* The member and an official from the member's Reserve component must execute a DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select."

- (II) *Period of Obligated Service.* The executed period of obligated service on the DD Form 2895 shall be from January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2007.
- (III) *Deadline.* The above requirements must be completed by October 31, 2006, and the member must submit the TRICARE enrollment form and first month's premium payment to purchase coverage during the open season. The TRICARE enrollment form and first month's premium payment must be post marked no later than November 25, 2006.

(c) Calendar Year 2008 and Beyond Qualification Certification/Recertification

- (i) *Calendar Year Qualification Certification.* Beginning in 2007, the Reserve components shall conduct an annual validation of qualification from July 1st through October 31st, during which Reserve component members who wish to purchase TRS Tier 2 or TRS Tier 3 health coverage for the upcoming calendar year will have the opportunity to provide the required documentation and enter into the necessary service agreement to qualify for TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage.
- (ii) *Communications Plan.* At least annually prior to and during the qualification certification period, the Reserve components shall provide Selected Reserve members, and other individuals as determined by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned, with information about the qualification requirements and the annual qualification/ certification period in sufficient time so that members will be able to make an informed decision about purchasing TRS Tier 2 and TRS Tier 3 coverage for the upcoming calendar year.
- (iii) *TRS Tier 2 Certification/Recertification Requirements*
 - (A) *Documentation.* Annually, member must provide documentation (as described in paragraph (3)(e), above) to his or her Reserve component that substantiates that the member meets, or continues to meet, the qualification requirements specified in paragraph (3)(a), above, for TRS Tier 2 coverage. This may require the member to submit supplemental documentation should the initial documentation fail to cover the full period of coverage through December 31st of the year of coverage.
 - (B) *Service Agreement.* The service member and an official from the member's Reserve component shall execute a DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select" for new or continued TRS Tier 2 coverage that commits the member to serving in the Selected Reserve for upcoming calendar year.
 - (C) *Period of Obligated Service.* The executed period of obligated service on the DD Form 2895 shall be from January 1st through December 31st for the upcoming calendar year.

(D) *Deadlines.* The above requirements must be completed by October 31st, and the member must submit the TRICARE enrollment form and first month's premium payment to purchase coverage during the open season. The TRICARE enrollment form and first month's premium payment must be post marked no later than November 25th.

(iv) *TRS Tier 3 Certification/Recertification Requirements.*

(A) *Service Agreement.* The service member and an official from the member's Reserve component shall execute a DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select" for new or continued TRS Tier 3 coverage that commits the member to serving in the Selected Reserve for the upcoming calendar year.

(B) *Period of Obligated Service.* The period of obligated service on the DD Form 2895 shall be from January 1st through December 31st for the upcoming calendar year.

(C) *Deadlines.* The above requirements must be completed by October 31st, and the member must submit the TRICARE enrollment form and first month's premium payment to purchase coverage during the open season. The TRICARE enrollment form and first month's premium payment must be post marked no later than November 25th.

(6) Period of Coverage — TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3

(a) Calendar Year 2006. Section 702 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, which created the requirement TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3, specified that coverage for the new TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3 options shall be available beginning not later than October 1, 2006. The Act further specified that enrollment for TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3 coverage shall be effective for one year only and may be renewed during an open enrollment season. Therefore, the initial period of TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3 coverage for 2006 will be from October 1, 2006, through December 31, 2006, in order to transition to calendar year coverage.

(b) Calendar Year 2007 and Beyond. New or continued TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage will be for the calendar year (January 1st through December 31st), unless coverage is suspended, as described in paragraph (8), below, or terminated for the reasons described in paragraph (9), below.

(c) Qualifying Life Event. A member who experiences a Qualifying Life Event may purchase, change or terminate TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage within 60 days of such event, as described in paragraph (12), below. Coverage for a member purchasing TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 will begin on the date of the Qualifying Life Event and continue for the remainder of the calendar year. To continue coverage in next calendar year, the member must follow the procedure prescribed in paragraphs (5)(b) or (c), above, and (7)(c), below.

(d) Newly Assigned Selected Reserve Members. A member who is accessed into the Selected Reserve outside the qualification certification period and open enrollment season (except as prohibited under paragraph (9)(e), below), may purchase TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 health care coverage, as described in paragraph (11), below. Coverage will begin on the first of the month according to the 20th of the month rule, as described in paragraph (11), below, and continues for the remainder of the calendar year. To continue coverage in the next calendar year, the member must follow the procedures described in paragraph (5)(b) or (c), above, and paragraph (7)(c), below.

(7) **Purchasing TRS Coverage.** The Director of the TRICARE Management Activity will conduct the enrollment for the TRICARE Reserve Select purchased health care insurance program.

(a) TRS Tier 1 — One-time Opportunity. The decision to purchase TRS Tier 1 is a one-time opportunity. Once the member has executed the required service agreement (DD Form 2895) for the number of whole years of service in the Selected Reserve, the member must complete and submit the applicable TRICARE enrollment form and first month's premium payment for receipt by the applicable TRICARE Regional Contractor, as prescribed in paragraph (2)(b)(iv), above.

(b) TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 — Initial Enrollment

(i) *Enrollment Requirements.* Members not currently enrolled in TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 must submit a completed enrollment form and the first month's premium payment for receipt by the TRICARE Regional Contractor during the annual open enrollment season in order to purchase TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3 coverage.

(ii) *Failure to Submit Enrollment.* Service members who do not enroll with the TRICARE Regional Contractor during the open enrollment season in accordance with the above enrollment requirements shall not be provided the TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 health care coverage during the upcoming calendar year, even if they have provided the required documentation as specified in paragraph (3)(e), above, for TRS Tier 2 coverage, and executed the required service agreement as specified in paragraph (3)(b) or paragraph (4)(b), above, for TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage, respectively.

(iii) *Calendar Year 2006 Enrollment.*

(A) *Deadline.* An enrollment form with the first month's premium payment must be postmarked on or before September 25, 2006, to purchase TRS Tier 2 or TRS Tier 3 coverage beginning October 1, 2006.

(B) *Missed Deadline.* An enrollment form with initial premium payment postmarked after September 25, 2006, will be processed for enrollment for calendar year 2007 with TRS Tier 2 or TRS Tier 3 coverage beginning January 1, 2007, if the member has entered into a service agreement that extends through December 31, 2007. Otherwise, the enrollment form and premium payment will be returned to the member.

- (iv) *Calendar Year 2007 and Beyond Enrollment.* The enrollment form and first month's premium payment must be postmarked no later than November 25th to purchase TRS Tier 2 or TRS Tier 3 coverage for the upcoming calendar year.
- (c) Automatic Renewal (for Continued Coverage in TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3). Selected Reserve members covered under TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 during the current calendar year are not required to submit another TRS request form to the TRICARE Regional Contractor during the annual open enrollment season, provided the applicable requirements in paragraph (7)(c)(i), or (7)(c)(ii), below, have been met. However, the Reserve component representative must enter into a new service agreement with an end date of December 31st of the following year and the new end date must be entered into DEERS in order for automatic renewal to occur.
 - (i) *TRS Tier 2 Renewal.* Once a member currently enrolled in TRS Tier 2 coverage has provided the documentation specified in paragraph (3)(e), above, and completes the service agreement, as specified in paragraph (3)(b), above, for continued service in the Selected Reserve, and the Reserve component validates the member's qualifications for continued coverage of TRS Tier 2 coverage by updating DEERS to automatically renew the member for TRS Tier 2 coverage for the upcoming calendar year. No further action is required on the part of the member. The TRICARE regional contractor will continue billing and collecting premiums and will adjust the premium rates as indicated.
 - (ii) *TRS Tier 3 Renewal.* Once a member currently enrolled in TRS Tier 3 has executed a service agreement, as specified in paragraph (4)(b), above, for continued service in the Selected Reserve in order to purchase TRS Tier 3 coverage by updating DEERS to automatically renew the member for TRS Tier 3 coverage for the upcoming calendar year. No further action is required on the part of the member. The TRICARE regional contractor will continue billing and collecting premiums and will adjust the premium rates as indicated.
- (d) Qualifying Life Event — New TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 Coverage. The procedures for purchasing TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage based on a qualifying life event are provided in paragraph (12), below.
- (e) New Accessions — TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 Enrollment. The procedures for newly accessed members of the Selected Reserve to purchase TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage are provided in paragraph (11), below.

(8) Suspension of TRS Coverage

- (a) *Covered Under Another TRICARE Benefit.* The applicable tier of TRS coverage and premium payments are suspended during any period when the member becomes eligible for any other non-premium based TRICARE benefit (e.g., active service [active duty and full-time National Guard duty] greater than 30 days, delayed-effective-date active-duty order, TAMP, dual military couple when the spouse is on active service greater than 30 days).

- (b) *Extension of Orders.* If a member receives orders for fewer than 31 days and those orders are subsequently extended to result in a continuous period of active service greater than 30 days, or the member is issued a subsequent set of orders that result in a continuous period of active service greater than 30 days, the member's TRS coverage is suspended upon either receipt of an extension of orders that results in a period of active service greater than 30 days or when the member's period of active service based on subsequent orders results in a period of active service of greater than 30 consecutive days. Simply stated, suspension occurs on the date the member receives orders that extend the member to a period of service greater than 30 consecutive days and thus is covered by a non-premium based TRICARE benefit.
- (c) *Resumption of Coverage.* The applicable tier of TRS coverage shall resume when the member's eligibility for non-premium TRICARE benefit ceases and will continue until the period of TRS coverage expires, is again superseded, or is otherwise terminated.

(9) Termination of TRS Coverage

- (a) Failure to Provide Qualification Documentation. A member who applies to purchase TRS Tier 2 coverage but does not provide the required documentation during the annual qualification certification/recertification period shall not be allowed to purchase TRS Tier 2 coverage.
- (b) Failure to Enter into a Service Agreement. A member who otherwise meets the qualifications to purchase TRS Tier coverage but does not execute the required service agreement (DD Form 2895) within the prescribed time limit for the particular TRS tier shall not be qualified to purchase TRS coverage, and if currently enrolled for TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage, shall have that coverage terminated on December 31st of the current calendar year.
- (c) No Longer Meets Qualification Requirements. If at anytime the condition upon which the member qualified for Tier 2 listed in paragraph (3)(e) ceases to exist during any month of coverage, the member shall report the change to the member's Reserve component and to the servicing TRICARE Regional contractor, as soon as possible, but in no case later than the end of the month in which the change occurred. In that case, the member's coverage under Tier 2 will be terminated as of the end of the month in which the condition ceased to exist. This loss of coverage under Tier 2 is a qualifying life event and the member may request the Reserve component to validate his or her qualifications for Tier 3.
- (d) Failure to Make Premium Payments. TRS coverage shall be terminated if the member fails to make premium payments in a timely manner as determined by the Director, TRICARE Management Activity.
 - (i) *TRS Tier 1.* Coverage for TRS Tier 1 can only be regained if the member serves a new qualifying period of active duty and the member's Reserve component validates the member's qualifications again.

- (ii) *TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3.* Coverage for TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 can only be reestablished during the annual qualification certification period/open enrollment season unless the member experiences a Qualifying Life Event (as provided in paragraph (12), below), or the Secretary of the Military Department concerned exercises the reinstatement authority provided in paragraph (13), below.
- (e) Failure to Extend or Reenlist. Except as provided in paragraph (12), below, a member who fails to execute an extension or re-enlistment for continued service in the Selected Reserve as agreed to in DD Form 2895 shall not be qualified to purchase TRS coverage for the upcoming year upon expiration of his or her current service commitment or enlistment. A subsequent enlistment, extension or reenlistment will not reestablish eligibility for TRS coverage. The member can be re-qualified to purchase TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage again only during the next qualification certification/open enrollment period, or upon a qualifying life event. TRS Tier 1 coverage can only be reestablished if the member performs a new period of qualifying active duty and the member's Reserve component validates the member's qualifications again.
- (f) Separation from the Selected Reserve.
 - (i) *TRS Tier 1.* Coverage for TRS Tier 1 shall be terminated upon separation or transfer from the Selected Reserve.
 - (ii) *TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3.* Coverage for TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 shall be terminated at the end of the month in which the member is separated or transfers from the Selected Reserve.
- (g) Voluntary Termination of TRS Tier 1 Coverage. TRS Tier 1 coverage shall terminate when a member notifies his or her Reserve component and the TRICARE Regional Contractor that he or she no longer wishes to continue health coverage under this program. This decision is irrevocable and the member will no longer qualify for TRS Tier 1 coverage unless the member again qualifies for this benefit after performing a new period of qualifying active duty. The effective date for termination of coverage will be the last day of the month in which the request was received.
- (h) Bar to Reenrollment — TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3. When a member's TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage is terminated, the member shall not be allowed to purchase TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage until the next open season unless the member qualifies for TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage based on a Qualifying Life Event as described in paragraph (12), below, or the Secretary of the Military Department concerned exercises the reinstatement authority provided under paragraph (13), below, to authorize prospective TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage. **However, the reinstatement authority is NOT authorized in the case of a member who failed to extend or reenlist** (as provided in paragraph (9)(e), above).

(10) TRS Premiums

- (a) Premium Rates. The amount of the monthly premium for each tier and type of coverage shall be determined annually by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. The total premium cost shall be determined to be reasonable for that coverage based on an appropriate actuarial basis. The premiums shall be published annually by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.
- (b) Premium Payments. Premiums shall be paid directly by the member to the applicable TRICARE Regional Contractor.

(11) New Accessions in the Selected Reserve. Except as prohibited under paragraph (9)(e), above, an individual who is accessed into the Selected Reserve outside of the open enrollment season and did not have the opportunity to purchase TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 during the last qualification certification/open enrollment season may apply to purchase TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage.

(a) Qualification Certification to Purchase TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3.

- (i) The newly accessed Selected Reserve member who applies to purchase TRS Tier 2 or TRS Tier 3 coverage must meet the applicable qualification requirements specified in paragraphs (3)(a) and (3)(b), above, for TRS Tier 2 coverage, or paragraph (4)(a), above, for TRS Tier 3 coverage.
- (ii) Qualification certification must be completed no later than 60 days of the date after accession into the Selected Reserve.

(b) Purchasing TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 Coverage. A newly accessed Selected Reserve member who is purchasing new TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 must submit the completed enrollment form and the first month's premium payment for receipt by the TRICARE Regional Contractor no later than 60 days after the date of accession into the Selected Reserve. The TRICARE Regional Contractor will not process the enrollment until the member's eligibility has been reported in DEERS.

(c) Effective Date of Coverage. The effective date of coverage is based on the following rules.

- (i) *Applications Received by the 20th of the Month*. A completed enrollment form accompanied with the first month's premium payment received by the 20th of the month will result in coverage beginning on the first day of the following full month (e.g., an enrollment application received by May 15th will result in coverage beginning on June 1st).
- (ii) *Applications Received After the 20th of the Month*. A completed enrollment form and first month's premium payment received after the 20th of the month will result in coverage beginning on the first day of the second full month (e.g., an enrollment application received on May 28th will result in coverage beginning on July 1st).

- (d) Termination/Continuation of Coverage. The coverage for TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 shall end on December 31st of the current calendar year the member was accessed into the Selected Reserve, unless coverage is terminated earlier. A member who wished to continue Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage must follow the procedures for the applicable tier of TRS as described in paragraphs (5) and (7), above.

(12) **Qualifying Life Event (QLE).** A Qualifying Life Event provides an opportunity for a Selected Reserve member to request certain actions. In Tier 1, members may only change type of coverage in connection with a QLE. In Tiers 2 and 3, members may request to purchase, change type of coverage, or terminate TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage outside of the annual open enrollment season in connection with a QLE. Qualifying life events are designated by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and currently include: a change in immediate family composition and a change in employment of the member or spouse that affects the health coverage status of the member or the member's family.

(a) Qualification Certification to Purchase TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3

- (i) The Selected Reserve member who applies to purchase TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 based on a QLE must meet the applicable qualification requirements specified in paragraphs (3)(a) and (3)(b), above, for TRS Tier 2 coverage, or paragraph (4)(a), above, for TRS Tier 3 coverage.
- (ii) Certification must be completed no later than 60 days after the date of the qualifying life event.

(b) Purchasing TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 Coverage. A Selected Reserve member who is enrolling in TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 based on a qualifying life event must submit the completed enrollment form and the first month's premium payment for receipt by the TRICARE Regional Contractor no later than 60 days after the date of the qualifying life event.

(c) Effective Date of Coverage. The effective date for TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage based on a qualifying life event shall be the date of the qualifying life event.

(d) Termination/Continuation of Coverage. The coverage for TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 shall end on December 31st of the current calendar year for which the member purchased TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 based on the QLE, unless coverage is terminated earlier. A member who wished to continue Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage must follow the procedures for the applicable tier of TRS as described in paragraphs (5) and (7), above. When the QLE occurs after the close of the Qualification Certification period specified in paragraph (5), above, any documentation required may be used for certification for the following year and the service agreement may be extend through the next full calendar year.

(13) Reinstatement — TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3.

- (a) Discretionary Authority. The Secretary of the Military Department may authorize the reinstatement of a member whose coverage was terminated in error or the Secretary determines it would be in the best interest of the Department and the service member to allow the member to be reinstated in TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage.
- (b) Required Coordination. The Secretary of the Military Department may only exercise this authority:
 - (i) after gaining the concurrence from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs for matters involving TRICARE enrollment and benefits; or
 - (ii) after gaining the concurrence from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs for matters involving qualification certification requirements.
 - (iii) In either case, the Reserve component shall coordinate approved reinstatement actions with the TRICARE Regional Office for the region in which the TRS member's coverage is being serviced.
- (c) Qualification Requirements. A member shall not be reinstated in TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 until the member meets all of the qualification requirements specified in paragraphs (3)(a) and (3)(b), above, for Tier 2 coverage or paragraph (4)(a), above, for Tier 3 coverage.
- (d) Limitation on Delegation. The Secretary of the Military Department may not delegate this authority below the level of Assistant Secretary of a Military Department.

(14) Responsibilities of the Military Department

- (a) Communication Plan.
 - (i) *TRS Tier 1.* Each Reserve component member who meets the qualification requirements specified in paragraph (2)(a), above, for TRS Tier 1 coverage shall be provided information about the TRS Tier 1 benefit before the member is released from the qualifying period of active duty.
 - (ii) *TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3.* Each Reserve component shall establish and maintain a communication program that explains the TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3 benefits and the criteria to qualify to purchase TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3 to its Reserve component members, and spouses of the members if applicable.
- (b) Assistance for TRS Tier 1 Coverage. No later than 90 days following the member's release from the qualifying period of active duty, each Service shall provide its Reserve component members an opportunity to execute an agreement to serve continuously in the Selected Reserve for a period of one or more whole years as a prerequisite to purchasing TRS Tier 1 coverage. The Defense Manpower Data Center web application shall be used to record the member's decision.

- (c) Documentation of Enrollment Decision for TRS Tier 1. Each Service shall document a qualified Reserve component member's decision to accept or decline to participate in the Selected Reserve for a period of one or more whole years for TRS Tier 1 coverage.
- (d) Qualification Certification — TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3. Each Reserve component shall administer the annual TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3 qualification certification period described in paragraphs (5), above.
- (e) Qualification Determination and Documentation — TRS Tier 2 and Tier 3. Each Reserve component is responsible for validating the member's qualifications for TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3, establishing policies and procedures for maintaining the qualification certification documentation for TRS Tier 2, and maintaining the executed DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select" for members who purchase TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage.
- (f) Retention of Documentation.
 - (i) TRS Tier 1. Documentation that the member declined TRS Tier 1 coverage shall be maintained for a period equal to the maximum number of years the member could have elected TRS Tier 1 coverage based on the period of qualifying active duty as described in paragraphs (2)(a)(i) and (2)(a)(ii), above.
 - (ii) TRS Tier 2. The substantiating documentation that the member qualifies for TRS Tier 2 coverage, as described in paragraph (3)(e), above, shall be retained for at least three years for audit purposes.
- (g) DEERS Reporting. Each Reserve component shall report members who qualify for TRS through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). The Reserve component shall use the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) web application to input eligibility into DEERS.
- (h) Periodic Verification — TRS Tier 2.
 - (i) *Unemployment Compensation Recipients.* Each Reserve component shall re-validate whether or not a member continues to qualify for TRS Tier 2 coverage based on being an eligible unemployment compensation recipient not later than 26 weeks after the member purchased TRS Tier 2 coverage or when the member's unemployment compensation benefit is projected to expire based on the documentation provided by the member during the annual qualification certification period or qualifying life event.
 - (ii) *Not Eligible for an Employer-Sponsored Health Plan and Self Employed.* Each Reserve component shall periodically verify continued eligibility for TRS Tier 2 coverage between the annual qualification certification periods of reservists who qualified for TRS Tier 2 based on not being eligible for an employer sponsored health plan or is self employed. The number and frequency of verifications may be determined by the Reserve component.

(15) Service Member Responsibilities.

- (a) Certification of Accuracy. By signing the service agreement (DD Form 2895), the service member understands that it is his/her responsibility to comply with all TRICARE Reserve Select procedures. The reserve member certifies that the information provided on the form is true, accurate, and complete. Federal funds are involved in this program and any false claims, statements, comments, or concealment of a material fact may be subject to fine and imprisonment under applicable Federal or State laws.
- (b) Required Documentation. A Reserve component member who wants to purchase TRS Tier 2 coverage must provide the documentation necessary to establish he or she meets the qualification requirements specified in paragraph (3)(a), above, in order to purchase TRS Tier 2 coverage.
- (c) Notification of a Change in Qualification. The Reserve component member shall promptly notify the appropriate official for his or her Reserve component and the TRICARE Regional Contractor when the member no longer meets the qualification requirements for TRS Tier 2 coverage, but no later than the end of the month in qualification condition ceases to exist, as described in paragraph (3)(a), above. A member who fails to notify the appropriate officials of his or her change in qualification for TRS Tier 2 coverage shall be responsible for the TRS Tier 3 premium payments beginning the month following the date that the member no longer qualifies for TRS Tier 2 coverage.